NOTES FROM PACIFIC COAST OBSERVATORIES.

THE FRANK P. BRACKETT OBSERVATORY OF POMONA COLLEGE, CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA.

Pomona College has recently dedicated a new observatory. The building was presented by Mr. LLEWELLYN BIXBY, an alumnus of the college, and named for a former teacher, now the director of the observatory. It is a small building, designed primarily for student work. It contains a six-inch equatorial with Clark objective and Gaertner mounting; a three-inch transit and a chronograph, also made by Mr. GAERTNER; and a Riefler mean-time clock. A smaller laboratory clock will be used for sidereal time until another Riefler clock can be purchased.

A horizontal solar telescope, with six-inch objective and a focal length of forty feet, is nearly completed. This is to be used with a spectrograph of the Littrow type, having a focal length of fifteen feet. The cœlostat has two mirrors—one, a flat mirror ten inches in diameter, is driven by clock-work so as to reflect the light from the Sun upon the second; also a flat mirror twelve inches in diameter, which is mounted with alt-azimuth motion on a column just south of the first. From this mirror the light passes through the objective which is mounted on a pier north of the cœlostat. The cœlostat was built by Mr. GAERTNER, its mirrors and the objectives of both telescope and spectrograph being made by M. PETITDIDIER, of Chicago.

The cœlostat and objective of the horizontal telescope rest upon a concrete foundation and are covered by a small house which runs upon a track, so that it can be entirely removed when the instrument is in use. This house is connected with the main building by a pergola, which will be covered with vines to shelter the beam of light in its passage from the

objective to the slit. The slit of the spectrograph and the plate-holders are placed in the focal plane of the forty-foot objective, upon a concrete pier in the observatory, near the south side. The grating and the lens, which serves as both collimator and camera lens, are mounted upon another pier fifteen feet north of the first.

The building is made of stone and stands on a slight elevation in the park, well removed from other buildings and from ordinary travel. A flat roof or deck floor covers the building, except the central portion where the dome-room stands. This deck, protected by the parapet which crowns the walls, affords a good place for direct observation of the sky.

The opening of the observatory was the occasion of a notable address by Dr. GEORGE E. HALE, Director of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory, announcing some important discoveries recently made at Mt. Wilson concerning the vortical character of sun-spots.

VISIBILITY OF MT. WHITNEY FROM MT. HAMILTON.

It has been the tradition at Lick Observatory that Mt. Whitney could not be seen from Mt. Hamilton because of an intervening mountain.

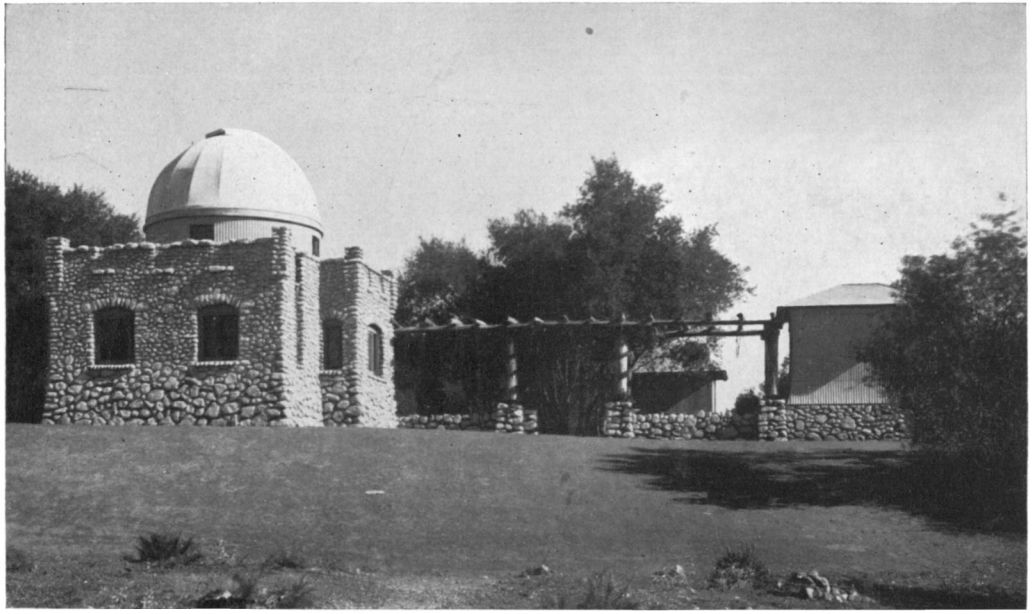
A year or two ago, when the air was unusually clear after some of the winter storms, the Sierras could be traced almost to their extreme southern end. A coffin-shaped peak was noticed then which looked very much as the pictures of Mt. Whitney would lead one to expect. So striking was the resemblance that the bearing of Mt. Whitney from Mt. Hamilton was determined from their known geographical positions.

Just recently the Sierras were exceptionally clear and the same peak was visible, as well as the outlines of a nearer dark range projected against the snow of the more distant range. The bearing of the peak supposed to be Whitney was measured with a surveyor's transit. Following are the computed and observed directions:—

Computed bearing of Mt. Whitney from Lick Observatory, main building—16 ° 28′ south of east.

Observed bearing of Mt. Whitney from Lick Observatory, main building—16° 30′ south of east.

Distance, 191 miles.



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